Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A coupling unit, comprising:

a connecting area for connecting to a transmitting and/or receiving module;

a holding area for holding an optical fiber; and

a transparent coupling area configured for directly contacting the optical fiber and for directly coupling light between the optical fiber and the optical transmitting and/or receiving module when the optical fiber is inserted into said holding area and the optical transmitting and/or receiving module is connected to said connecting area;

said transparent coupling area formed integral with said holding area and said connecting area.

Claim 2 (original): The coupling unit according to claim 1, wherein:

said coupling area has a side facing said holding area that forms a projecting stop surface for the optical fiber; and

said stop surface is for directly contacting a fiber core of the optical fiber when the optical fiber is inserted into said holding area.

Claim 3 (original): The coupling unit according to claim 2, wherein:

said holding area defines a longitudinal axis; and

said stop surface runs at right angles to said longitudinal axis of said holding area.

Claim 4 (original): The coupling unit according to claim 1, in combination with the optical fiber, wherein:

the optical fiber has a refractive index; and

said coupling area has a refractive index matched to the refractive index of the optical fiber.

Claim 5 (original): The coupling unit according to claim 1, wherein:

said coupling area has a side facing the transmitting and/or receiving module; and

said side facing the transmitting and/or receiving module has an inclined light inlet or light outlet surface.

Claim 6 (original): The coupling unit according to claim 1, wherein said transparent coupling area, said holding area, and said connecting area form a transparent, plastic injection-molded part.

Claim 7 (original): The coupling unit according to claim 1, further comprising:

a horizontally running base plate formed with said coupling area therein;

said base plate having an upper face connected to said holding area;

said holding area extending essentially at right angles with respect to said upper face of said base plate; and

said base plate having a lower face connected to said connecting area.

Claim 8 (original): The coupling unit according to claim 1, wherein said holding area forms an elongated sleeve with a precision guide.

Claim 9 (original): The coupling unit according to claim 1, wherein said holding area is designed for holding a ceramic ferrule having a center configured with the optical fiber.

Claim 10 (original): The coupling unit according to claim 1, wherein said connecting area is essentially cylindrical.

Claim 11 (original): The coupling unit according to claim 10, wherein said connecting area is designed for connecting to a TO can in which the transmitting and/or receiving module is configured.

Claim 12 (original): The coupling unit according to claim 1, further comprising:

a horizontally running base plate formed with said coupling area therein;

said base plate having an upper face connected to said holding area;

said holding area extending essentially at right angles with respect to said upper face of said base plate; and

said base plate having a lower face connected to said connecting area;

said base plate formed with a cutout passing through said base plate; and

said cutout running adjacent said coupling area of said base plate.